

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
OIC-02 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /111 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0409
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 4002

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, RQ, ML
SUBJ: UN CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO

REF: (A) STATE 188247, (B) STATE 192227, (C) STATE 203994

1. THE DEMARCHE REQUESTED IN REFTELS WAS NOT MADE EARLIER BECAUSE THE MALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER IS ABROAD AND SEYDOU TRAORE, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, HAS BEEN ON VACATION. THE SECRETARY GENERAL RETURNED TO THE OFFICE YESTERDAY AND RECEIVED ME TODAY, AUGUST 17.

2. I MADE THE PRESENTATION AS INSTRUCTED, LEAVING AN AIDE-MEMOIRE IN FRENCH CONTAINING THE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION OF JULY 25 AND RELEVANT TALKING POINTS. I STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE TO US AND OUR STRONG DESIRE TO AVOID A VOTE ON A HOSTILE CUBAN RESOLUTION.

3. TRAORE IS VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE QUESTION, AND WE HAD ANOTHER LONG EXCHANGE. BASICALLY, HE WAS NONCOMMITTAL, SAYING THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD RECEIVED NO INFORMATION FROM THE MALIAN DELEGATION IN NEW YORK THAT THERE WAS ANY PROBLEM AND THAT ONE WOULD HAVE TO SEE HOW THE SITUATION EVOLVED.

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4. I WENT OVER THE GROUND AGAIN, POINTING TO MALI'S ABSTENTION ON THE PROCEDURAL VOTE TO ADJOURN DISCUSSIONS IN 1977, AND TRAORE THEN SAID THAT, SINCE THE MALIAN DELEGATION'S LAST INSTRUC-

TIONS WERE TO ABSTAIN, IT COULD NOT CHANGE ITS POSITION THIS YEAR WITHOUT SEEKING NEW AUTHORITY FROM THE MINISTRY IN BAMA KO.

KJNTUALLY, WE UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS HIS PHONE CALL TO NEW YORK FOLLOWING MY LAST-MINUTE APPROACH (77 BAMAKO 3616) THAT PRODUCED THE ABSTENTION.)

5. COMMENT: I AM QUITE SURE THE SECRETARY GENERAL WISHES TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION ON THIS ISSUE AND I THINK HE IS SYMPATHETIC TO THE IDEA OF AGAIN POSTPONING A VOTE ON THE CUBAN RESOLUTION, ALTHOUGH HE FREQUENTLY REMARKS THAT IT IS REALLY BETTER TO HAVE A THOROUGH AIRING OF ISSUES IN PUBLIC DEBATE. HE ALSO TOOK IN THE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION AND THE CALL FOR A REFERENDUM AFTER THE PUERTO RICAN ELECTIONS IN 1980 AS NEW DEVELOPMENTS THAT COULD JUSTIFY FURTHER ADJOURNMENT OF THE DISCUSSION. HE RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PUERTO RICO QUESTION FOR US. BUT I COULD GET NO COMMITMENT ON THE MATTER.

6. AS THE DEPARTMENT AND USUN ARE AWARE, THE MALIAN DELEGATION IN NEW YORK IS A FAIRLY FREE-WHEELING OUTFIT. IT WOULD BE HALPFUL TO KNOW WHAT POSITION IT IS TAKING THIS YEAR SO THAT WE CAN SEEK TO ENSURE THAT IT IS NOT ACTING OUT OF LINE WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S WISHES.
BYRNE

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NNN

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